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August 8, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 37 – July 2014
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- On June 30, a request to re-locate select transects associated with the continuous surface water monitoring during point source discharge events program (and co-located sampling locations in the dry-weather total suspended solids concentration sampling and surface water sampling during point source discharge events programs) was submitted to USEPA. USEPA approved this request on July 2.
- On June 30, a proposed strategy for compositing striped bass and storing Atlantic menhaden until after the August sampling event was presented to USEPA.
- Approval of the *Phase 2 Quality Assurance Project Plan – Version No. 3* (Phase 2 QAPP Version 3) and *Phase 2 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan – Volume 2 Addendum No. 1* (Phase 2 FSAP Addendum No. 1), except for sections regarding seepage meters, was provided by USEPA on July 2.
- A point sources combined sewer overflow (CSO) sampling dry run was conducted at NCB-015 on July 8.
- A recommendation for using glass-lined carboys without Teflon liners during point sources sampling was provided to USEPA on July 8. USEPA approved this recommendation on July 9.
- The final Phase 2 QAPP Version 3 and Phase 2 FSAP Addendum No. 1, except for sections regarding seepage meters, were provided to USEPA on July 9.
- An initial review schedule for the draft *Preliminary Modeling Results Memorandum* (PMRM) was provided by USEPA on July 9.
- The *Phase 2 RI Field Program – QAPP/FSAP Deviation Memorandum No. 2* was submitted to USEPA on July 9. This memorandum detailed deviations associated with: 1) collection of acid volatile sulfides/simultaneously extracted metals and sulfide aliquots under nitrogen; 2) analysis of post-toxicity porewater samples for metals and mercury by EnviroSystems, Inc. (ESI); 3) percent relative standard deviation criterion for semivolatile organic compounds; 4) relocation of field samples from original targets; 5) bottle requirements listed in the *Phase 2 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan – Volume 2* (Phase 2 FSAP Volume 2); 6) field samples that were not submitted to laboratories; 7) use of underwater video to locate deployed sediment traps; 8) analyte list corrections for the East River surface water sampling and surface water sampling during point source discharge programs; 9) field measurements and/or samples that were inadvertently not collected; 10) updated information for

investigation-derived waste manifests; 11) filtering of the point sources water sample collected from the Con Edison - 11th Street Conduit; 12) corrections to inconsistencies in station identifications (IDs) and sample IDs; 13) removal of nonylphenol from the *Phase 2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan – Volume 2* (Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2) and Phase 2 FSAP Volume 2; and 14) updates to Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) NC-21 – Sediment-Water Shake Test.

- A monthly update meeting was held with USEPA in New York City on July 10. Items discussed during this meeting included: 1) Phase 2 field program update; 2) preliminary comments on and initial review schedule for the draft PMRM; and 3) point sources sampling coordination.
- A revised strategy for compositing striped bass along with the plan for storing Atlantic menhaden until after the August sampling event, which reflected discussions with USEPA on July 10, was provided to USEPA on July 14.
- Materials for the August 14 Modeling Workshop No. 5 were submitted to USEPA on July 24.
- A revised review schedule for the draft PMRM was provided by USEPA on July 24.
- The Phase 2 field investigation continued in July. Specifically, the following activities were performed:
 - Subsurface sediment sampling (continued through July)
 - East River surface water sampling (completed week of July 14)
 - Acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs), acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV), and sondes (deployment continued through July)
 - Sediment traps (retrieved, sampled, and redeployed week of July 21)
 - Caged bivalve reconnaissance
 - Point sources site visits
 - Sampling location reconnaissance at Maspeth Concrete (July 1)
 - New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) in-person health and safety training and CSO sampling dry run (July 8)
 - NYCDEP reconnaissance visits
 - Sampling space and parking assessment: NCB-015, NCQ-077, NCB-633, NCQ-637, BB-026, BB-013, NCB-022 and the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP; NCB-002; July 8)
 - Traffic conditions assessment: NCQ-029 (July 9)

- Infrastructure measurement confirmation: NCB-015, NCQ-077, NCB-633, NCQ-637, BB-026, BB-013, and NCB-022 and the Newtown Creek WWTP (NCB-002; July 15)
 - Long Island Expressway site (LIE-001) visit for equipment testing (July 17)
 - Coordination meeting was held with New York City (July 25)
- Commenced groundwater investigation (July 30)
- The following activities continued in July:
 - Preparation for implementation of the groundwater investigation program
 - Preparation of draft *Modeling Approach Memorandum (2)* (MAM2)
 - Phase 2 field program planning, including equipment procurement, access agreement negotiations, and coordination meetings

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month

- Quality control review of field data from the Phase 2 risk surface water, risk surface sediment, risk fish and crab tissue collection, East River surface water, and modeling- and data gaps-related subsurface sediment programs was completed. The field data for these program elements are included on the enclosed compact disc (CD).

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- The New York City post-dredge sediment sampling program was designed to provide updated information on surface sediment concentrations within the dredged footprint and compare contaminant concentrations with those measured in this area during Phase 1 for the purposes of defining surface and subsurface sediment concentrations in the chemical fate and transport model and to support other RI/FS analyses based on surface sediment concentrations. The sampling procedure outlined in the Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2 included two sample depths—one from the sand cover material, assumed to be 6 inches, and one from the sediment just below the sand cover. During core collection and processing, it was observed that many locations did not contain a distinct sand cover layer, and the sampling procedure would need to be modified to account for the conditions in the field. This issue was discussed with USEPA, and it

was noted that the sampling procedure to be employed at each target location would be based on a location-specific assessment of the collected cores at each target location.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Modeling Workshop No. 5 is planned for August 14.
- A project update meeting and/or teleconference with USEPA is scheduled for September 11.
- USEPA comments on the draft PMRM are expected in September.
- The draft MAM2 is planned for submission to USEPA in September.
- Continue the Phase 2 field investigation in August and September, including the following:
 - Subsurface sediment sampling
 - East River surface water sampling
 - ADCPs, ADVs, and sondes retrieval and redeployment
 - Sediment traps retrieval and redeployment
 - Low dissolved oxygen (DO) surface sediment sampling in the Study Area and reference areas (planned for August)
 - Low DO risk surface water sampling in the Study Area and reference areas (planned for August)
 - Low DO wildlife surveys in the Study Area and reference areas (planned for August)
 - Low DO fish and crab tissue sampling in the Study Area and reference areas (planned for August)
 - Caged bivalve study (planned for September)
 - Point source field reconnaissance visits/coordination
 - Groundwater investigation

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorqea.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Quadrini", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE

Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith